

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for fabricating a holey optical fiber, comprising:

a preform cover configured to ~~sealing~~ one end of a holey optical fiber preform having a plurality of air holes disposed in a substantially vertical orientation;

a gas supplier ~~for~~ configured to ~~supplying~~ gas into the air holes via the preform cover to prevent the air holes from being distorted;

a pressure regulator ~~for~~ configured to ~~controlling~~ the amount of gas supplied from the gas supplier to be constant; and,

a heating means installed at the other end of the holey optical fiber preform ~~for~~ configured to ~~heating~~ the other end of the preform to draw an optical fiber.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a fixing rod attached to the top of the preform cover configured to hold the holey optical fiber preform in a stationary position.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the gas is nitrogen.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for fabricating a holey optical fiber, comprising:

a tubular preform having a plurality of air holes disposed in a substantially vertical orientation;

~~a sealing means operative~~ configured to cover the top portion of the tubular preform ~~for~~ and to receive ~~ing~~ a flow of gas at a predetermined pressure;

a storage ~~means for configured to~~ supplying the gas to the air holes via the preform  
sealing ~~means~~ to prevent the air holes from being distorted;

a regulator ~~ing means for configured to~~ controlling the amount of gas supplied from the  
storage means to the sealing means to be constant; and,

a heater ~~ing means~~ coupled at the other end of the tubular preform ~~for and configured to~~  
heating the tubular preform while drawing an optical fiber from the tubular preform.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the gas is nitrogen.